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SENATE BILL 2840 By  
Dixon

HOUSE BILL 2551  
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 3, Part 7; Title 13 and Title 43, and to enact the "Biobased Products: Feasibility of Attracting New Businesses to Rural Tennessee Act of 2000".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Biobased Products: Feasibility of Attracting New Businesses to Rural Tennessee Act of 2000".

SECTION 2. The general assembly finds that there is potential for attracting to Tennessee new businesses that are producing or plan to produce biobased products. There is hereby created a competitive grants program administered by the department of economic and community development to solicit projects that examine the current and future feasibility and economic impact of biobased products and biobased industry in Tennessee.

SECTION 3. The purpose of this competitive grants program is to develop a variety of data to examine and nurture the development of biobased product industries in Tennessee. Areas eligible for funding include, but are not limited to, the examination of unique characteristics of Tennessee's location, transportation network and pro-business environment and their effect on the attraction of biobased industries to Tennessee; the examination of rural

industries that could manufacture biobased products; and information dissemination projects that highlight these research areas.

SECTION 4. To effectuate the purposes of this act, the department of economic and community development shall develop application procedures and offer competitive grants at the discretion, and under the supervision, of the commissioner.

SECTION 5. Funds appropriated for this competitive grant program shall be utilized for projects to include, but not be limited to, the development of dissemination tools such as websites, CD-ROMs, conferences or other information resources; the collection and publication of data; marketing programs that highlight Tennessee's biobased product potential; and other similar projects. Grants shall be available to private businesses, research institutions, universities and non-profit organizations operating with their base of operations in Tennessee. Grants shall be available through a competitive selection process.

SECTION 6. The competitive grant program shall be structured in such a way so as not to require an expenditure in any fiscal year in which this program is in operation in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

SECTION 7. No later than July 1, 2001, and at two-year intervals thereafter, the department of economic and community development shall report to the general assembly relative to the progress of this competitive grants program and its success in attracting new industries to Tennessee and providing the infrastructure for biobased products.

SECTION 8. The commissioner of economic and community development is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 9. The competitive grants program created by this act shall cease to exist on July 1, 2005.

SECTION 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.